



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN



REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Public Health Inspector

for the Year ended

31st DECEMBER, 1957





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# UPTON-UPON-SEVERN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Report for the year 1957

To:- The Chairman & Members of the Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the year 1957 recent changes in the pattern of ill health and infectious disease have become clearer.

Tuberculosis is now shewing a definite decrease in its incidence and people who are infected by the tubercle bacillus no longer expect such long periods of incapacitating illness, indeed, the majority are able to lead a normal active life. The number of persons on the tuberculosis register for various years is shewn in the accompanying table:

Year	Cases on Register	New cases during the year
1952	96	19
1953	98	11
1954	90	12
1955	90	20
1956	90	14
1957	65	9

The average age of the newly diagnosed cases is also increasing. We can expect, in the fairly near future, more than half the cases to occur in elderly people. It is tempting to suggest that the problem of tuberculosis in our country will soon disappear, but a word of warning is needed. Those who suffer from tuberculosis now, either in young or middle age, could become infectious again in their old age. With the improvement in the safety of milk supplies, the primary bovine infection of human beings is less each year. In the past this represented a very dangerous form of natural vaccination, which brought with it glandular and bone tuberculosis and an amount of ill health quite out of proportion to the protection afforded to the lucky ones. We have found over the past three years that approximately 24% of children at the age of thirteen have had personal contact with the germ of tuberculosis. This came to light in the course of our work vaccinating school children against the disease. Thirty years ago it is probable that 90% of the children at the age of thirteen had had some contact with tuberculosis of bovine or human origin. If the present trends are to be maintained, it is essential to achieve a higher degree of resistance to the germ in the absence of natural infection and this can only

/be done ...



be done by insistence upon future vaccination. If the resistance of the younger generation to the disease becomes lowered the trend is likely to be reversed in spite of modern treatment, and there may well be a considerable increase in the number of persons who excrete in their sputum the germ of tuberculosis without themselves being ill. It will be necessary to regard the incidence of tuberculosis as a problem of the aged, where the emphasis lies in saving the young from close contact with old infectious cases, who are themselves, not seriously inconvenienced by their disease. It is therefore quite clear that the continued decrease in the incidence of tuberculosis will be dependant upon three factors:-

Firstly, case finding and the efficient treatment of the disease, together with adequate supervision of contacts, is primarily the duty of the Regional Hospital Board and of the County Council. Secondly, the maintenance of an adequate level of immunity of the population at large to tuberculosis is the duty of the County Council; and finally the provision and maintenance of adequate living conditions i.e. adequate housing for the population, particularly of the aged, is primarily the duty of the local District Council. It is for this reason that I have stressed the future pattern of this disease and the need for long term planning.

In the Autumn the population was infected by the virus of Asian Flu, the main incidence falling in October and November. The first cases occurred at a boarding school at Croome Court where 90% of the children were taken ill within a fortnight of their re-assembly in September. The child population between the ages of 8 - 16 was mostly affected, infants and young school children being remarkably free from infection, and old people generally escaping lightly. The virus of Asian Flu was demonstrated by the Laboratory in the cases at Croome Court. The expected secondary wave of infection failed to materialise.

The mortuary housed ten bodies during the year. Five post-mortem examinations were carried out by Pathologists. Two of the bodies removed from the river after a long period had disintegrated. The mortuary therefore continues to fulfil an extremely useful and important function.

We are very fortunate to have Mr. Roberts to act as Mortuary Attendant and I should like to express my appreciation of the high standard he maintains in his work.

(Signed) H.F. GREEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

# Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,947
Number of inhabited houses, according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,132
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£129,074
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£480

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Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	14,830
Birth Rate (Per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	15.5
Still-birth Rate (Per 1,000 live & still-births)	...	5.7
Death Rate (Per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	10.3
Infantile Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 live births)	...	28.9

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## Comparable data for England & Wales, 1957.

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.1
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.5
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.0

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## DEATHS

### Causes of Deaths (All Ages)

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...
Cancer - all forms	...	...	...
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...
Diseases of Heart and Arteries	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...
Pneumonia & other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...
Diseases of digestive system	...	...	...
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...
Violence	...	...	...
All other causes	...	...	...
Total	116	127	243

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### Laboratory Services.

Chemical analysis is carried out, as before, by arrangement with the County Laboratory at the County Buildings. Bacteriological examination is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

### Clinics.

There are none provided by this Authority.

The County Council have provided, by local arrangement with Voluntary Committees, for Infant Welfare Centres to be held at the following centres:

Hanley Swan	... 3rd Wednesday in month at 2.30 pm.
Kempsey	... 1st Thursday in month at 2.30 pm.
Longdon	... 2nd Tuesday in month at 2.00 pm.
Upton-upon-Severn	... 1st & 3rd Tuesdays in month at 2.30 pm.
Welland	... 2nd & 4th Fridays in month at 2.00 pm.

Clinics are also provided at Worcester and Malvern, under arrangements made by the County Council, for Maternity and Eye cases.

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### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Visits to premises for investigation	...	...	...	...	8
Premises disinfected after notifiable disease	...	...	...	...	3
Premises disinfected after other diseases	...	...	...	...	0

### Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1957 the tuberculosis register contained the names of 35 males and 30 females who normally reside in the district.

9 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.



INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1957.

DISEASE	All Ages	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-64 yrs	65 +	Age Not Known
SCARLET FEVER	1										1			
PNEUMONIA	6						1				3		1	1
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	2									1	1			
MEASLES	36	1	2	1	2	3	20	4	1		1			1
WHOOPIING COUGH	43		3	5	9	8	18							
FOOD POISONING	1								1					
POLIOMYELITIS (Non-Paralytic)	1									1				
POLIOMYELITIS (Paralytic)	1							1						

# DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT DURING 1957.

Children who received a full course of Primary Immunisation ... ..	Ages				Total
	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.		
Children who received a Re-inforcing Injection ... ..	-	15	47		62
	52	51	5		108

## IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31.12.57.

Age at 31.12.57. i.e. born in yr.	Under 1 1957	1-4 yrs 1953-1956	5-9 yrs 1948-1952	10-14 yrs 1943-1948	Total under 15
Number immunised	3	453	890	892	2,238

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

To -

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report of the work of the Public Health Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

During the year progress of the Slum Clearance programme has been very slow, due partly to the pressure of other work, and partly to the decision of the Council to curtail the house building programme.

The number of applications for improvement grants under the Housing Acts has remained constant. Fifty four applications were approved and four rejected.

100% inspection of the animals slaughtered in the private slaughter-houses in the district was accomplished and although some "out of hours" inspections were necessary, on only two occasions was "Sunday slaughtering" carried out.

Mr. A. Sutton returned to duty in October, having completed his National Service training, and is affording valuable assistance, particularly in the carrying out of routine inspections and the following up of works in progress. In view of the difficulty experienced in obtaining a qualified Assistant Public Health Inspector, as agreed in 1955, Mr. Sutton's return is of considerable value to the department.

### Summary of General Visits and Inspections.

General complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Drainage inspections - supervision of work	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Improvement Grants - Housing Acts 1949/57	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
Visits to temporary dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Visits to Hop Pickers dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Investigations of Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspection of work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	178
Inspection of dairies, cowsheds etc.,	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Inspections under Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Miscellaneous visits and revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	205

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

There are three licensed slaughter-houses in the area, two of which were in operation during the year.

Post-mortem examination of all animals slaughtered is carried out.

### Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	172	1	46	590	209
Number inspected	172	1	46	590	209
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and Cystercerci.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	4	-
Carcasses of which some organ or part was condemned.	17	-	-	5	4
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cystercerci.	9.8%	-	-	0.85%	1.9%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some organ or part was condemned.	7	-	-	-	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	4.0%	-	-	-	0.4%
<sup>16</sup> <u>Cystercosis</u>	No carcase was found to be affected.				



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Cont.)

No of Food Premises in the District:

### Shops:-

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocery & Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Fish (Wet & Fried)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cafes & Refreshment Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

### Bakehouses.

There are 8 bakehouses in the district. With the exception of one 'border-line' case, the general standard is good. One bakehouse in the Callow End area, in which several men are employed, has been completely reconstructed, including the fitting of new ovens.

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### Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

No of premises registered and purpose for which registered, under Section 16:

No registered for storage & sale of pre-packed ice-cream	...	32
No registered for manufacture of sausages, pressed meat etc.	...	5

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

No of inspections of Registered Food Premises:-

Inspections of Cafes, kitchens and Public Houses	...	13
Inspections of Bakehouses	...	13
Inspections under Public Health (Meat) Regulations	...	282
Inspections in connection with sale of ice-cream	...	4
Inspections of premises registered for manufacture of sausages, pressed meat etc.	...	17
Inspections of Other Food Premises	...	12

### Lectures to Food Handlers.

No new educational activity in this direction was inaugurated during the year.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Cont.)

Food Condemned as being unfit for human consumption:

Tinned Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 Tins.
" Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	22 "
" Plums	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 "
" Peaches	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 "
" Peas	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 "
" Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 Tin.
" Pilchards	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 Tins.
" Tomato Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 Tin.
" Tomato Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 "
" Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 Tins.
" Apricots	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 "
" Pineapple	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 "
" 'Chef Snacks'	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 "
" Pears	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 "
" Beef Steak in Gravy	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 Tin.
" Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 "
" Boned Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Pre-packed sliced cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 packet.

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### Disposal of Condemned Food.

The amount of food condemned in this area is very small. Small amounts are either burnt or buried, but a large item, such as a complete carcase, is collected and processed by a specialist firm from the nearby City of Worcester.

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## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

Owing to pressure of other work very little action has been taken under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The general standard is reasonably good but there do exist instances where there is room for improvement.

### WATER SAMPLING

#### Private Wells.

No of samples submitted for Analysis	...	...	...	69
Results of Analyses - Satisfactory	...	...	...	33
- Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	36
No of wells cleansed and repaired as a result of informal action	...	...	...	5
No of wells closed during year	...	...	...	4

## WATER SAMPLING (Cont.)

### Swimming Baths.

No of privately owned swimming baths open to the public	...	...	...	...	...	1
No of samples submitted for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Results of analyses - Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	1
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	1

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### Factories Act, 1937.

No of Factories on Register	...	...	...	...	...	54
No of inspections made during year	...	...	...	...	...	27
No of premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	14
No of Notices served (Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	1

Two instances of inadequate sanitary accommodation were dealt with during the year. In one case, the work was carried out following an informal intimation to the owner, but in the second case a Formal Notice was required before the work was commenced.

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### Shops Act, 1950.

Improved and additional sanitary accommodation was provided in one instance in a shop where a mixed staff is employed, the owner having the work carried out following informal action by the department.

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## HOUSING

No of houses erected during the year	...	...	...	...	...	38
By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	10
By Other Bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	28

Table shewing number of houses completed by the Local Authority as part of the Post War programme.

Year	Houses Completed	Year	Houses Completed	Year	Houses Completed
1946	10	1950	46	1954	54
1947	27	1951	32	1955	45
1948	53	1952	58	1956	35
1949	8	1953	57	1957	10



## HOUSING ACTS, 1949/57.

### Improvement Grants.

Fifty-six applications for improvement grants were received for consideration during the year, plus three adjourned from 1956.

Fifty-four were approved, four were rejected and one withdrawn.

### SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

No of premises scheduled for action	...	...	...	...	147
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

No of premises dealt with up to 31.12.57. :-

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	20
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	9
Premises Reconditioned	...	...	...	...	6
Premises dealt with in Clearance Areas	...	...	...		11

The future progress of this work will depend entirely upon the rate at which new accommodation is provide to rehouse the displaced persons.

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## HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954.

No of Applications for Certificates of Disrepair received	...	Nil
No of Certificates of Disrepair granted during the year	...	Nil
No of Certificates of Disrepair outstanding at end of year	...	Nil
No of Certificates revoked on application of landlord	...	4

## THE RENT ACT, 1957.

No of applications for Certificates of Disrepair received	...	7
No of Certificates of Disrepair granted	...	3
No of Certificates of Disrepair refused	...	Nil
No of undertakings received from landlords	...	4
No of Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	...	Nil

### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

#### Public Health Acts.

No of premises visited	...	...	...	...	14
No of defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	22
No of defects or nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	22
No of Notices served - Informal	...	...	...	...	13
No of Notices served - Formal	...	...	...	...	7
No of legal proceedings instituted	...	...	...	...	Nil



## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS (Cont.)

### Housing Acts.

No of Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	25
No of premises unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	20
No of premises not in all respects fit	...	...	...	...	...	5
No of premises rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	3
No of premises in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	6
No of premises in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	1
No of Clearance Areas approved	...	...	...	...	...	2

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### SEWERAGE

Sewers and disposal works are provided and maintained in the following parishes:-

Earls Croome	Pumping Scheme
Hanley Castle	Gravitation
Hanley Swan	ditto
Kempsey	Pumping Scheme
Longdon	ditto
Powick	ditto
Holly Green (Ripple)	ditto
Upton-upon-Severn	ditto

A number of smaller schemes dealing with the sewage from small groups of houses are also in existence in the district.

An extension to the Powick sewers for the Bowling Green area was prepared and received Ministry Approval during the year. When carried out, this scheme should remedy a serious nuisance which has been allowed to persist for many years.

Complaints are also received respecting the unsatisfactory conditions existing at Bastonford, Naunton, Ripple and Severn Stoke.

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### REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour and is under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

## RODENT CONTROL

Unfortunately the work of rodent control was disrupted for several weeks due to the fact that Miss Clements had to undergo an operation. We were, however, fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Bishop of Malvern, for a short period, but the return of Mr. Sutton after completing his National Service enabled us to deal with the accumulation of work and keep abreast of the complaints pending Miss Clements' return to duty.

### No of infestations treated:-

Private dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	51
Business premises	...	...	...	...	...	38
No of other infestations	...	...	...	...	...	14
No of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	33

### No of inspections and re-inspections:-

Farms, Smallholdings etc.	...	...	...	...	224
Other premises	...	...	...	...	118

Whilst a free treatment is given in respect of private dwellings, a charge is made for treatments given to business premises.

The Public Sewers were test baited during the year, and treatments carried out in three areas where minor infestations were found.

The rick survey requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was continued, but the number of corn stacks being built in the district is now very small due to the increasing use of the "Combine Harvester" and use of "Dutch" barns.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.J. CROMWELL,

Public Health Inspector.



